

LOS OSOS WASTEWATER PROJECT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works



Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 23, 2007

- 1) Call to Order/Roll Call: Approximately 12:05 pm, Chairman Garfinkel called the meeting to order. Absent: Don Asquith.
- 2) Agenda Item 1, Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 9, 2007: No public comment. **Karen Venditti motion to accept minutes as submitted, Bob Semonsen second. Motion carries.**
- 3) Agenda Item 2, Chairperson's Comments and Working Group Reports:
Opening comments by Chairman Bill Garfinkel. Discusses public meetings of working groups, advisory committee consideration of public comments and input, and the need for more public outreach. Discusses development of criteria for the Pro/Con analysis and the County's project alternatives review process.
 - a. Financial Working Group: Discussion and written summary of items from April 13, 2007 working group meeting (attached).
 - b. Environmental Working Group: Discussion and written summary of items from April 12, 2007 working group meeting (attached).
 - c. Engineering Working Group: Discussion and written summary of items from April 20, 2007 working group meeting (attached).

Public comment on Agenda Item 2:

Al Barrow: Discusses development of a privately financed project, biosolids, and STEP collection systems.

Richard Margetson: Discusses working group interaction at advisory committee meetings and population estimates in Chapter 1 of Rough Screening Report.

Dave Duggan: Discusses working group reports and public information.

Advisory committee response to public comment: County Planning Department has been contacted regarding estimates of future population. Advisory committee is in process of gathering information. **No action taken.**

- 4) Agenda Item 3 Advisory Committee Review of Project Alternatives:
John Waddell presented Chapter 5—Treatment Facility Siting Alternatives. (Handout attached)

Project website: www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW/LOWWP

Project email address: LOWWP@co.slo.ca.us

Advisory committee discussion on issues related to Chapter 5, including creek crossing feasibility, proximity to disposal and reuse areas, eliminated in-town site alternatives, numbering errors on Fig. 5.1, potential growth inducing impacts, and related piping costs.

John Waddell presented Chapter 6—Collection System Alternatives. (Handout attached)

Advisory committee discussion on issues related to Chapter 6, including possible SRF loan requirements for STEP system, eliminated vacuum and low pressure alternatives, contact with other STEP system operators, and possible odor control.

Public comment on Agenda Item 3:

George Taylor: Quotes excerpts from letter by Tom Ruehr regarding County process for CEQA and Proposition 218.

Dave Duggan: Discusses potential for constructed wetlands, out of town treatment plant siting, and regional project alternatives.

John Michener: States that he lives on Falcon Ridge near the cemetery. Discusses treatment plant siting impacts to out of town properties.

Chuck Cesena: Discusses CEQA process related to Tri-W and example of Watsonville High School regarding growth inducing impacts.

Al Barrow: Discusses STEP collection system piping, inflow and infiltration, and storage requirements.

Gail McPherson: Discusses recent visit to Charlotte County, FL to see STEP collection system and advisory committee analysis.

Richard Margetsen: Discusses imported water and flow assumption in Chapter 1.

Sandra Bean: Discusses imported water, water costs, and impacts of zoning change on future population estimates.

Advisory committee response to public comment: Questions whether vacant lots will be included in Proposition 218 assessments. Request for discussion of core values and criteria on next agenda. Discussion of process for Pro/Con analysis. **No action taken.**

- 5) Date of next advisory committee meeting: Monday, May 7, 2007 at 12:00 pm in San Luis Obispo.
- 6) Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm.

SLO COUNTY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE LOS OSOS WASTE WATER PROJECT

ENGINEERING/WATER RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE REVIEW OF ROUGH SCREENING ANALYSIS, CHAPTERS 3 & 4

MEETING DATE: FRI. 4/20/07 3:00- 5:00 P.M.

ATTENDEES: DIANA HAINES, JOHN WADDELL, JOHN BRADY, JOHN FOUCHE
RUSS WESTMANN, BOB SEMONSEN

CRITERIA ESTABLISHED

CHAPTER 3- TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY

FLEXIBILITY OF TREATMENT PROCESS TO MEET FUTURE NEEDS AND REGULATIONS
DEMONSTRATED RELIABILITY OF PROCESS
EFFECT OF PROCESS ON BIO-SOLIDS PRODUCTION
COSTS- CONSTRUCTION, REPLACEMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ELECTRICITY

CHAPTER 4- BIO-SOLIDS TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL

MAINTAIN CONTROL OF DISPOSAL PROCESS
FLEXIBILITY OF BIOSOLID PROCESS AND DISPOSAL
NUISANCE ASSESSMENT OF BIO-SOLIDS PROCESS AND DISPOSAL
COST OF PROCESS FACILITIES, O & M, AND ULTIMATE DISPOSAL

INFORMATION REQUESTS

TREATMENT PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS FOR WASTE WATER PLANT

SLO County Technical Advisory Committee for the Los Osos Wastewater Project

Environmental Working Group – 2nd Report

Meeting Date: April 12th, 2007, 10:00-12:00 AM

Attendees: Dan Berman, Marshall Ochylski, Don Asquith, Maria Kelly, Paavo Ogren, Mark Hutchinson

Topics discussed include:

- Revisions to the overall Environmental Criteria,
- Revisions to our Chapter 2 Criteria
- Criteria specific to Chapters 3 and 4
- Draft Guiding Principles for the Working Group

Overall Environmental Criteria:

As the Environmental Group proceeds through this criteria development it should be expected that there will be an ongoing refinement of our criteria list. Changes have been marked with an asterisk for clarification. It is important to this group that we are as prepared as possible prior to the reviewing of the DRAFT Fine Screening Report.

Specific Changes:

- Salt Water Intrusion considerations should become a sub-topic of Ground Water Management
- Solids Handling now has one sub-topic: Volume
- Construction Impacts have been identified as applicable for Pro/Con analysis and has been added for review.

Overall Revised Criteria

Environmental Criteria (and sub-criteria) identified as applicable to a Pro/Con Analysis of the proposed project include:

Ground Water Management

Balance

Quality

****Salt Water Intrusion***

Surface Water Quality

Tributaries

Estuary

Biological/Botanical Resources

Archaeological Resources

Land Use Compatibility

Impacts on Agricultural Lands

Odors

Noise
Visual Resources
Solids Handling
 **Volume*
Energy Use
 Construction
 Operational
Growth Inducement
 **Construction Impacts*

Our Chapter 2 Criteria list is amended as follows (in order of importance):

- Ground Water (Balance, Quality, *and Salt Intrusion)
- Surface Water Quality
- Biological/Botanical Resources (Impacts on the land required for disposal)
- *Impacts on Agricultural Lands
- Visual Resources

Rough Screening Chapters 3 and 4:

Environmental Criteria particularly applicable to the Pro/Con Analysis of Chapter 3 and 4 in order of importance:

Chapter 3

Biological/Botanical Resources (Size of parcel necessary for treatment technology)
Archaeological Resources (Size of parcel necessary for treatment technology)
Land Use Compatibility (Size of parcel necessary for treatment technology)
Visual Resources
Energy Use

Chapter 4

Solids Handling
Odor

Guiding Principles:

In our review of the previous full TAC meeting, we discussed the idea of our “Guiding Principles”. We agreed on the following 4 general concepts that will be refined as we continue the process of developing our Pro/Con analysis criteria and eventual review of project alternatives.

- We are members of the Los Osos community and we are working on behalf of our community to help provide clear, objective, and accurate information about the environmental pros and cons of different alternatives.
- Doing nothing is not an option – we need improved wastewater treatment in Los Osos to address ongoing and significant pollution of our aquifer and the Morro Bay Estuary.
- All projects will have environmental positives and negatives
- We encourage community input and participation and we will incorporate that input in our efforts and share it with the County Team.

**TAC Financial Working Group
Meeting 4/13/07**

- A. Paavo reported on Rep. Visclosky's (chair of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water) visit to Los Osos on Thursday, which included U.S. Rep. Capps, CA Rep. Blakesly, County Supervisor Gibson, and staff from the USDA, Regional Water Board, and the County. (See article in Bay News.) He indicated there was a positive response but no promises.
- B. Paavo briefed the Finance committee on County counsel's position on the Brown Act in regards to the TAC individual committees. These groups are considered Ad-Hoc Committees as long as they stay focused solely on their individual purpose in regards to the process.
- C. Discussion of public concerns regarding the County's process, in which the Advisory Vote comes after the Prop 218 vote. It was noted that the County recognizes the importance of public confidence in the process. It was also emphasized that any public efforts to address the process will be most effective when they work through the County staff and demonstrate agreement before presenting to Board of Supervisors.
- D. Discussion of core values and draft Criteria. The attached form is intended to capture criteria offered by the other working groups so that it is an effective tool for the full TAC.

Next meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Monday, 4/23, prior to the full TAC meeting at noon.
(Bring a sack lunch.)

LOWWP Technical Advisory Committee

CORE VALUES

- ✚ Sustainability: Achieve groundwater balance and ensure source for clean drinking water.
- ✚ Community socio-economic well-being and diversity: "Nobody should have to leave their home to pay for a sewer."
- ✚ Environmental stewardship: Protect this place we call "home" and love so dearly.
- ✚ Help rebuild relationships within the community.

CRITERIA FOR PROS & CONS

Draft 4/9/07

CRITERIA	Collection System	Treatment Technology	Disposal/ Reuse	Solids	Siting	Overall
BEST COST (factors contributing to lowest bottom-line monthly cost to property owner)						
1.Lowest cost to construct, including: - Land acquisition - Road impacts, repairs - Potential engineering constraints regarding funding - Potential phases to ease project cost 2. Cost for individual hook-up 3.Lowest cost to operate & maintain, including: - Energy requirements - Labor - Disposal, sludge management - Cost to repair, replace, upgrade 4.Financial risks, incl. - Cost to clean up potential spills and respective fines - Cost of potential lawsuits 5. Future water supply: - Cost comparison to import State water vs. higher level of treatment						
BEST FUNDING FACTORS						
1.Elaborate for best financing, incl. - Low rate - Terms - Points, closing costs - Engineering constraints - Flexibility and timing 2.Grant-eligible, attractive 3. Attractive to 3rd party financial participation, eg. water purveyors 4. Potential source of revenue						

Rough Screening Approach

- **Basis of Component Evaluation**
 - Fatal Flaw Analysis
 - Elimination of Redundancy
 - Removal of Equivalent Components

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Project Components

- **Effluent Disposal/Reuse**
- **Treatment Technology**
- **Solids Treatment and Disposal**
- **Treatment Plant Siting**
- **Collection System**

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Treatment Facility Siting Alternatives

- **Continuing Project Alternatives**
 - South of LOVR
 - Cemetery Area
 - Tri-W
- **Eliminated Alternatives**
 - In-Town and Edge-of-Town sites other than Tri-W
 - Regulatory and environmental constraints
 - No significant advantage to Tri-W (Proximity to Urban Area)
 - Northern Area (i.e. Turri Road vicinity)

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Collection System Alternatives

- **Continuing Project Alternatives**
 - Dedicated Conventional Gravity
 - Combined Conventional Gravity, Vacuum and/or Low-Pressure
 - STEP/STEG
- **Eliminated Alternatives**
 - Dedicated Vacuum
 - Dedicated Low-Pressure

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